

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. New claim 27 has been added as a dependent claim directed to the elected species in Part II of the Office Communication. It is supported by original filed claim 6 of the filed specification. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 20 and 21 have been amended for sake of clarity and to place the claims in better patent practice format. No new matter has been entered.

II. Election of Species

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the non-elected species in a divisional application.

In response to the election of species, Applicants hereby elect the following species:

Part I: Applicants elect the species of the amino acid sequence which is the same as that of wild-type hG-CSF (SEQ ID NO: 2) except that in claim 4 the 17th amino acid is Ser, without traverse. The claims which are readable on the elected species include claims 1-4;

Part II: Applicants elect the species of SEQ ID NO: 59, without traverse. The claims which are readable on the elected species include claims 5, 6, 7 and 27; and

Part III: Applicants elect the *E.coli* thermoresistant enterotoxin II signal peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 53, without traverse. The claims which are readable on the elected species include claims 8, 9 and 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this reply is responsive to the outstanding Election of Species. However, should the Examiner wish to further discuss this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this *Combined Amendment and Response to Election of Species* is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 21, 2006.


Audrey de Souza